India and Bangladesh Agreement on sharing of Ganga Water

*15. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY :
SHRI RAM CHANDRA BHARADWAJ :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Bangladesh signed an agreement in January 1986 for a plan of action for the joint study of the dry season flow of Ganga and augmentation of water supply at Farakka and sharing of water of other common rivers;

(b) if so, what are the details of the agreement; and

(c) what steps have been taken or are being taken to implement the decisions?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c) No Sir. However the Joint Committee of Experts set up in pursuance of the inter-Governmental Memorandum of Understanding held a meeting in January 1986 and agreed on the methodology, procedure and time-table for the joint study.

Growing Hiatus Between the Irrigation Potential Created and its Utilisation

*16. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the hiatus between the irrigation potential created and the extent of its utilisation is growing; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) The gap between the irrigation potential created and its utilisation has increased marginally due, *inter alia*, to inadequate infrastructure and extension facilities, inefficient distribution of water, change in cropping pattern involving high water consumption, inadequate supply of power and over-reporting of the potential created.

Accident in Bhilai Steel Plant

*17. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that on 6th January, 1986 an accident took place in the Bhilai Steel Plant;

(b) whether it is a fact that this is the first major accident in the Bhilai Steel Plant

(c) what is the number of persons who died and injured in the accident;

(d) what is the loss to the plant due to the accident;

(e) whether it is a fact that an efficiency drive is on at present in the said plant, if so, the details thereof; and

(f) what are the reasons for this accident and who are the persons responsible for the accident?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K.C. PANT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) 44 persons were injured out of which 9 died subsequently.

(d) The plant incurred an expenditure of about Rs. 69,000/- on